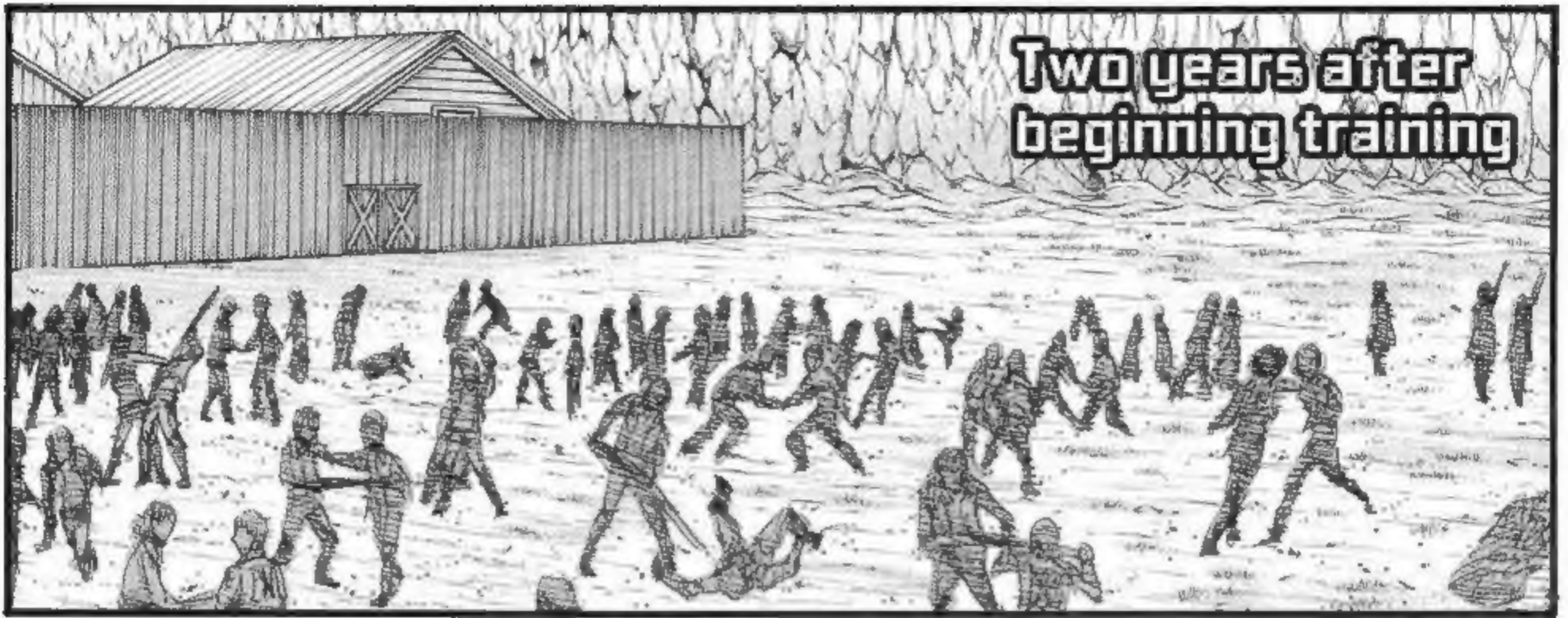




Episode 17:
Delusions of Strength





Two years after
beginning training



YOU'RE
USED TO
GRAP-
PLING,
AREN'T
YOU?

SORRY
... I'VE
GOT BAD
CON-
TROL.

YEESH... I
THOUGHT I
WAS TOO BIG
FOR YOU TO
FLIP ONTO THE
GROUND...



OW... C'MON,
THIS TIME YOU
BE THE BAD
GUY.



IT'S
NOT LIKE
SOLDIERS
FIGHT
PEOPLE.

STILL...
I DON'T
GET THIS
TRAIN-
ING.

7" *TH*

HUH
...

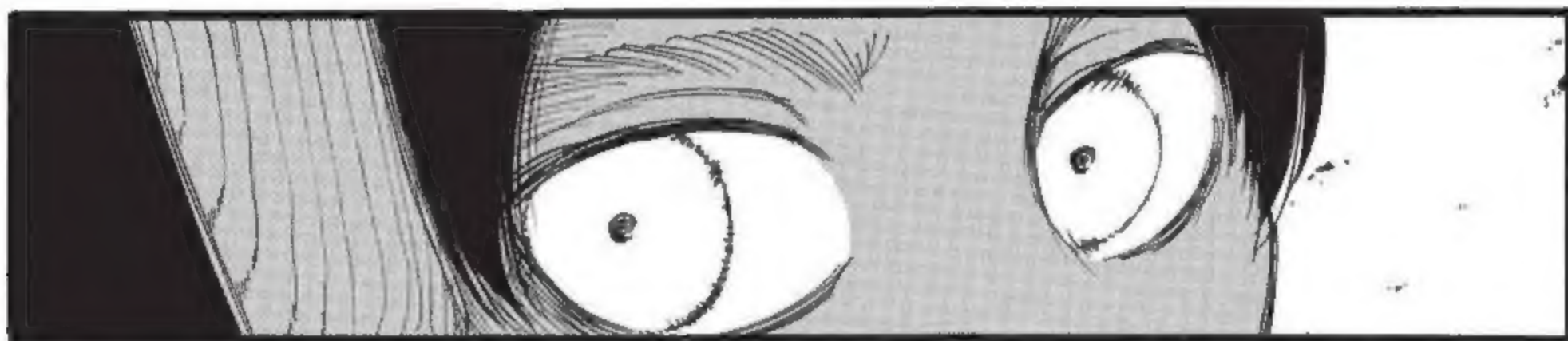


IN THE
FIRST PLACE,
ONLY A FOOL
WOULD GO
AFTER AN
ATTACKER
BARE-
HANDED.

DON'T
LET THE
INSTRUC-
TOR HEAR
YOU SAY
THAT...

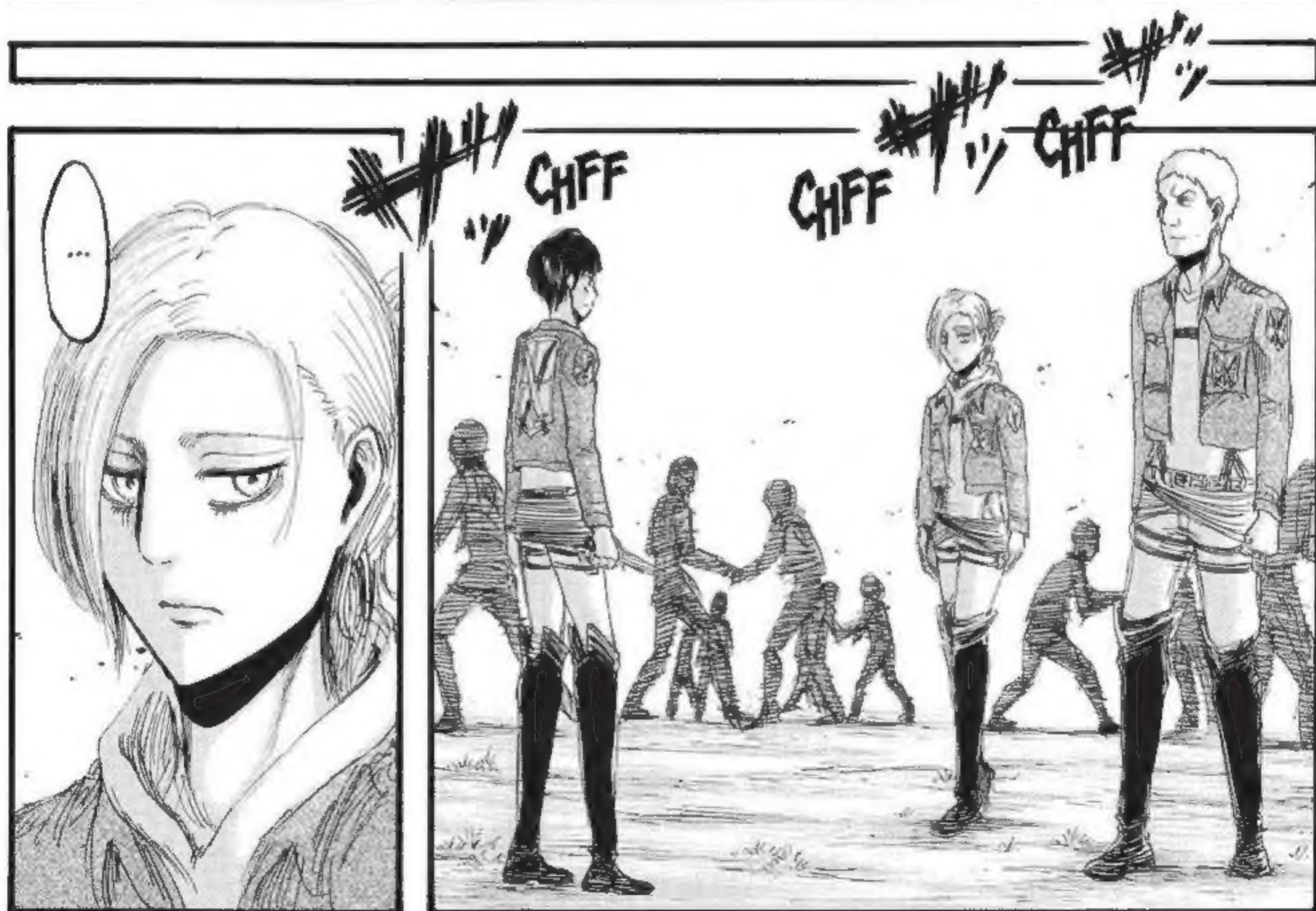
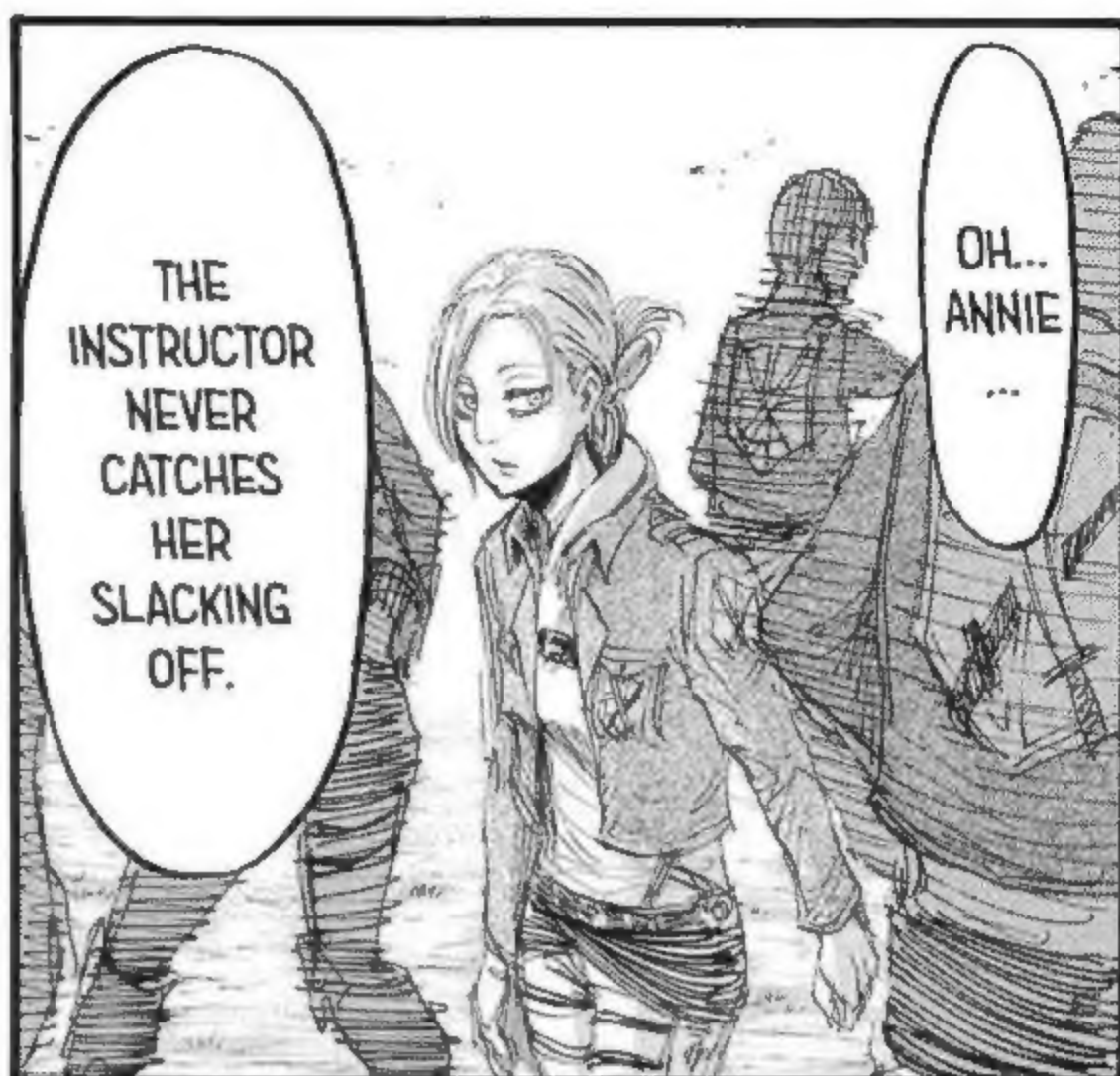


BACK
WHEN I
LIVED IN
THE CITY, I
PLAYED
WITH THIS
HUGE
KID...

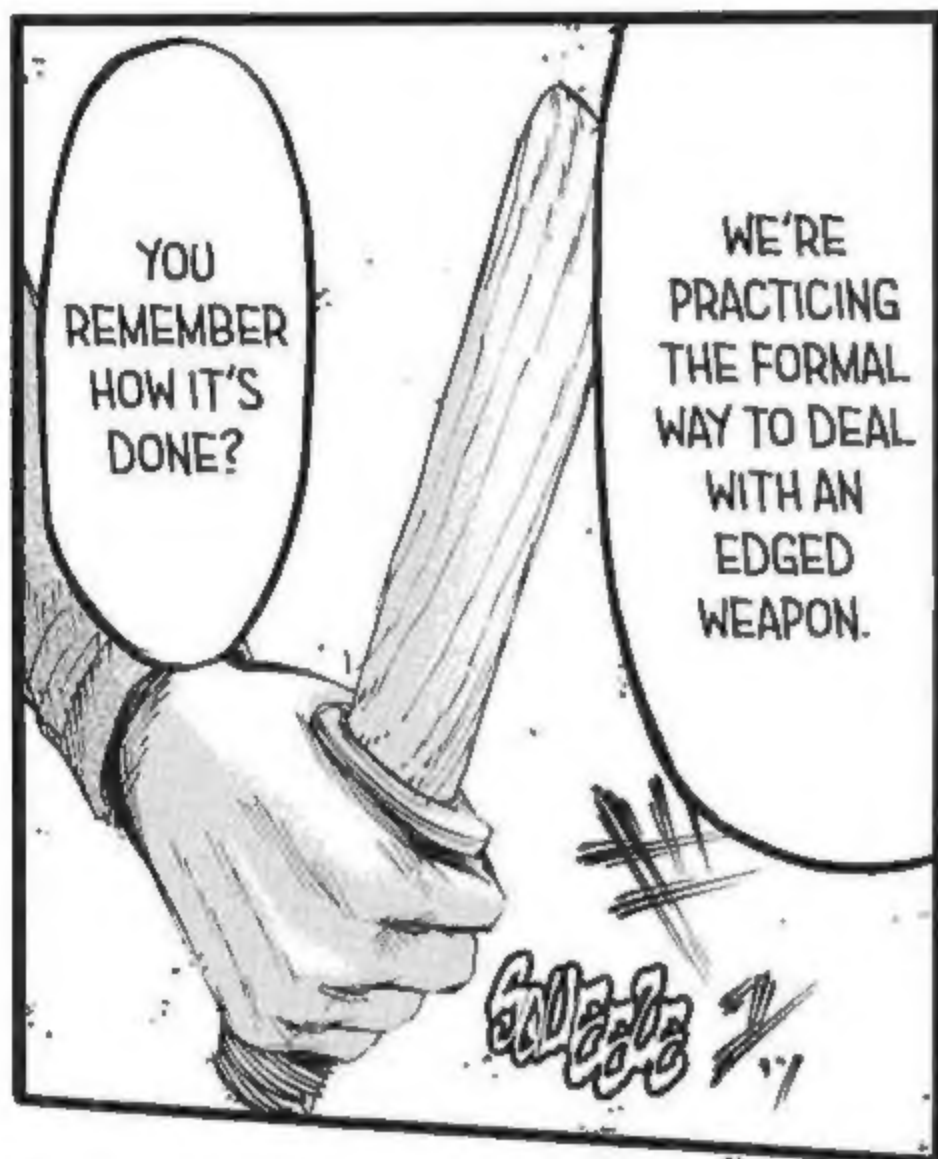
















CAN I GO NOW?

OW ...



THROB

YOU... KICKED MY LEG?



WHAT WAS THAT?!

QUIVER QUIVER

NGAH ...



...HEY!! WAIT A SECOND!

NOT YET! WE TRAIN UNTIL YOU TAKE AWAY THE DAGGER FROM YOUR OPPONENT!

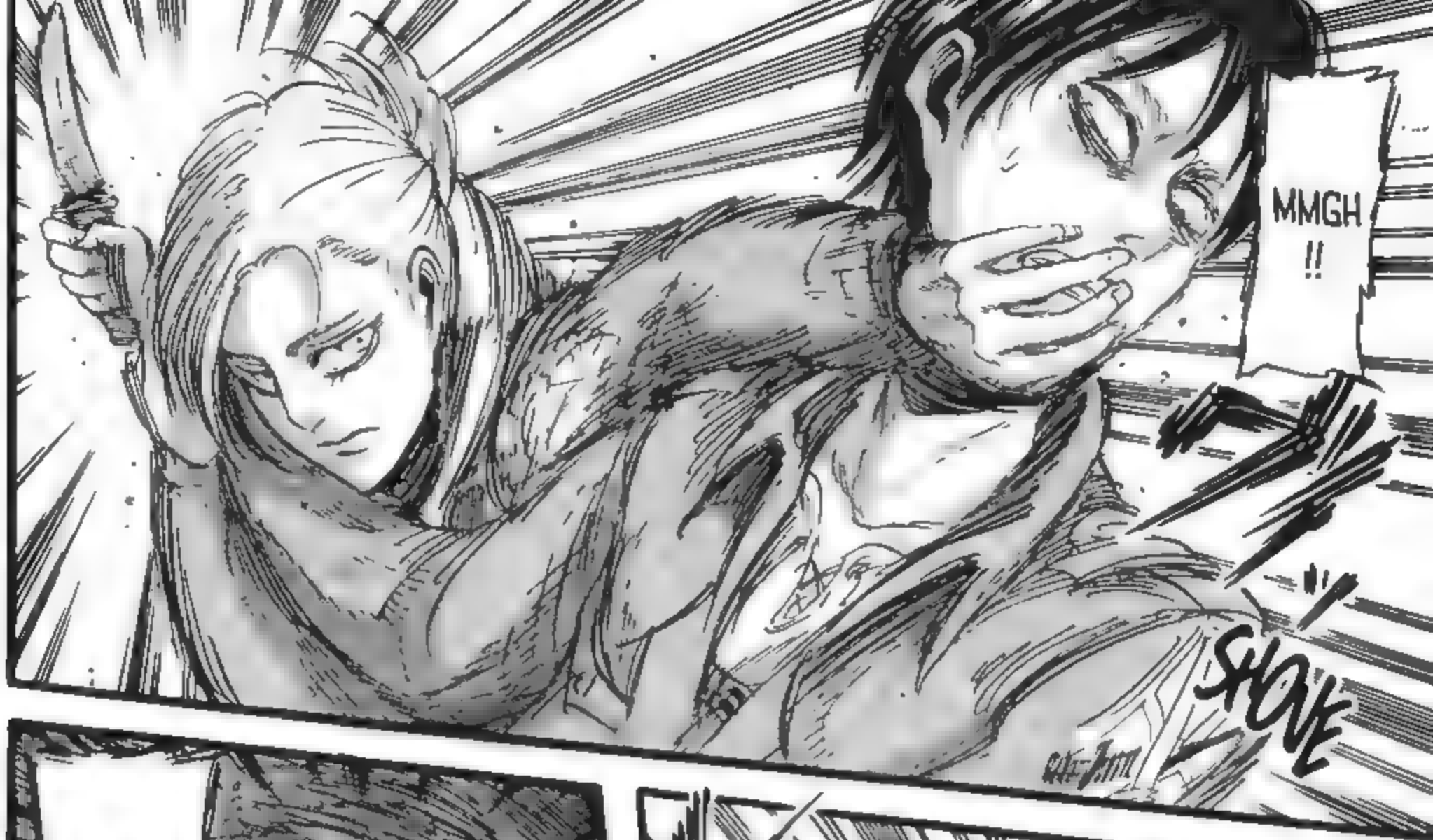


THERE'S A WAY YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS!

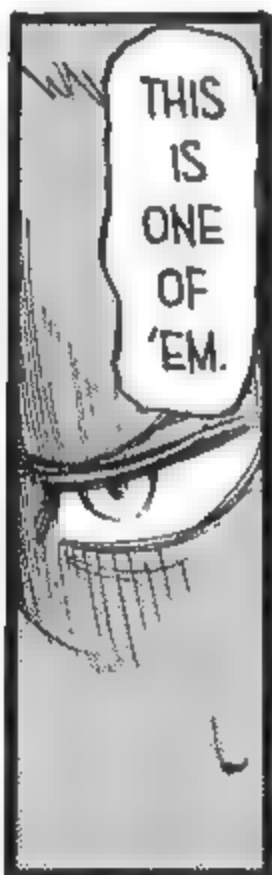
ANNIE, WAIT!

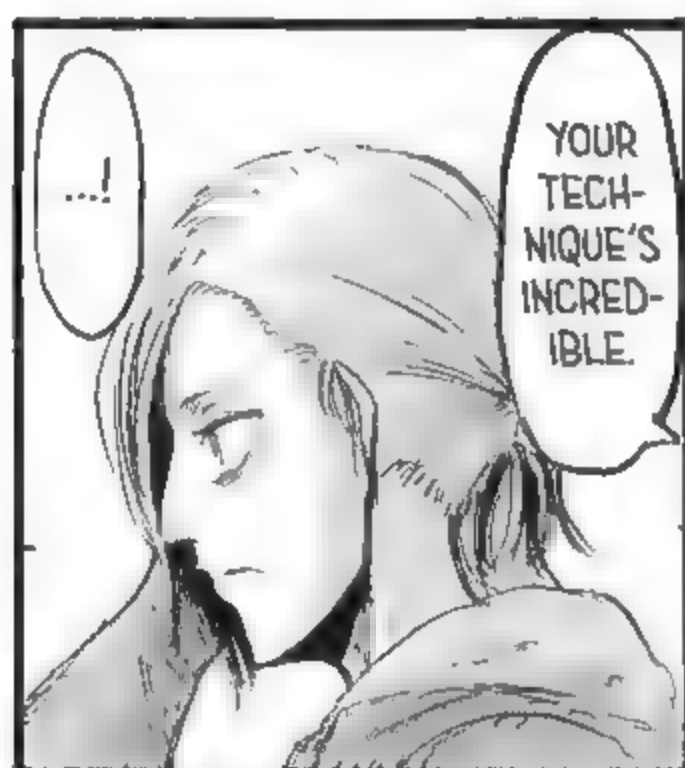


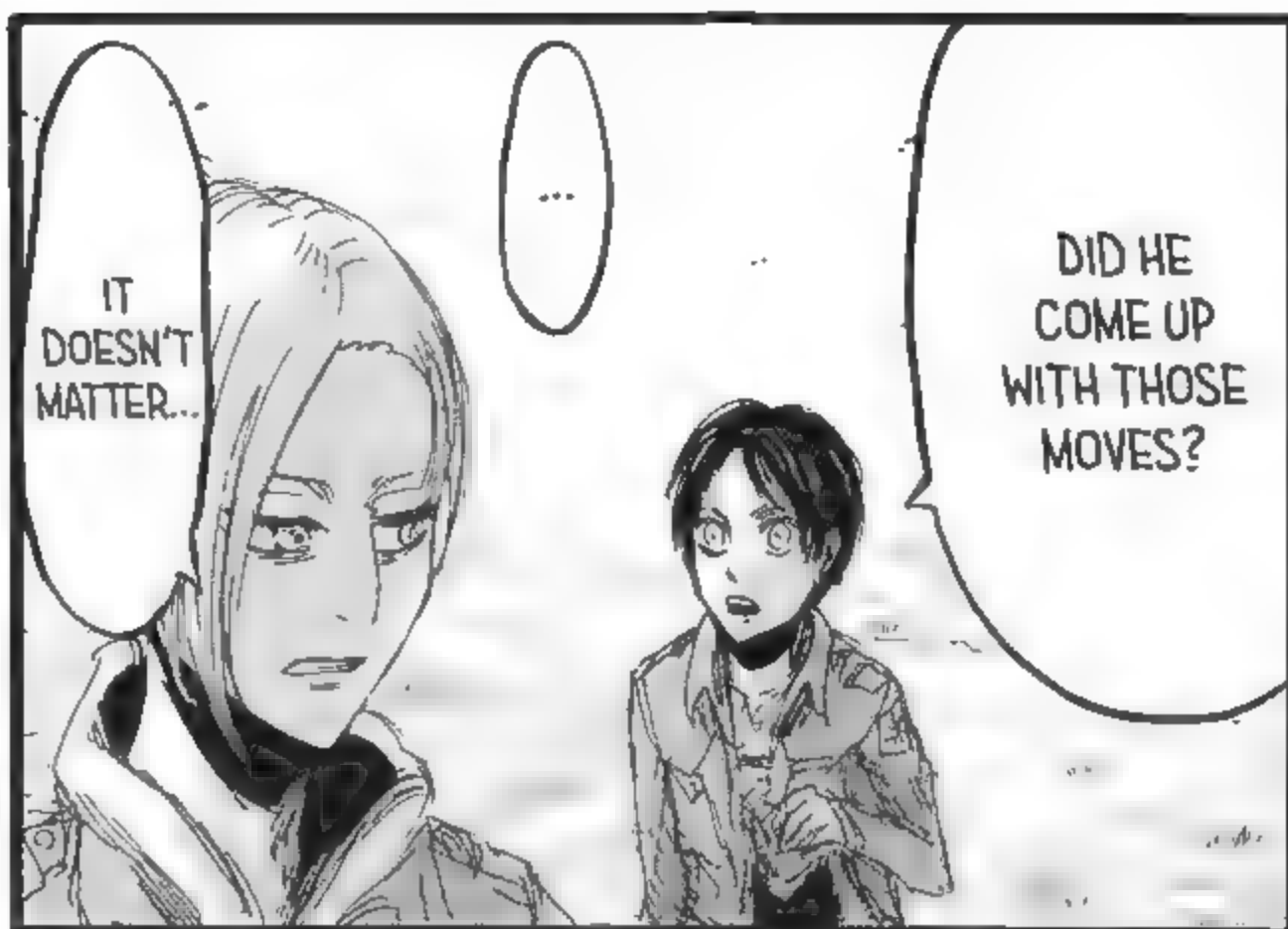
WHOA ...!!













...OR
ACT
LIKE
IDIOTS.



THE OTHERS
EITHER TAKE IT
REAL SERIOUSLY,
LIKE YOU
GUYS...



THEY USE THIS
TIME TO UNWIND
AFTER THE
ROUGH TRAINING
EARLIER...



FINISH



UH-OH!
THE
INSTRUC-
TOR!

FINISH

AH
...



!!

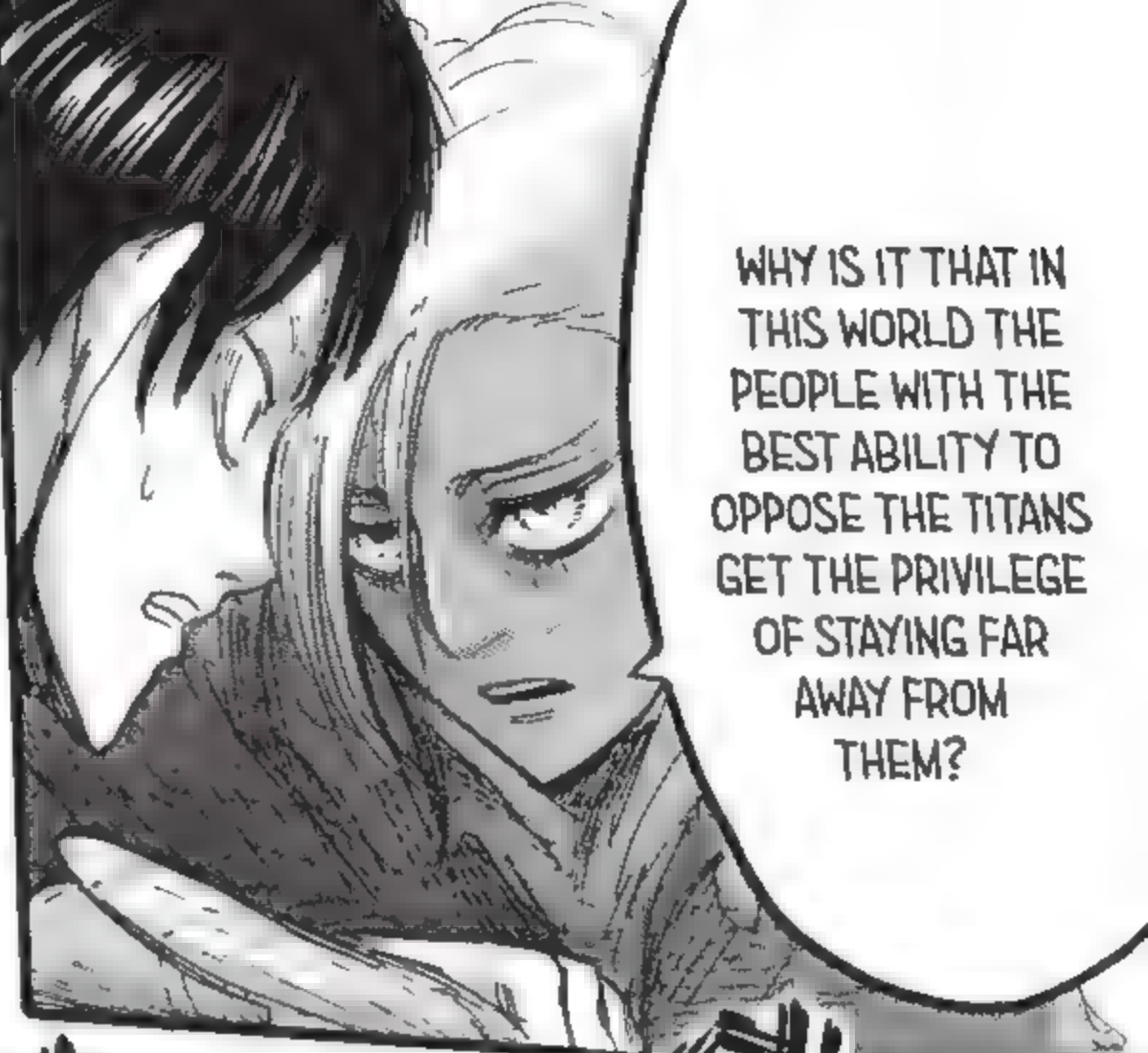
GETA

SEE, I'M NOT
AIMING TO BE A
GREAT SOLDIER.
I JUST WANT THE
RIGHT TO LIVE IN
THE INTERIOR.

ANYWAY...
VERTICAL
MANEUVERING
SKILLS ARE
WORTH A LOT
OF POINTS, SO
THAT'S ALL I
CARE ABOUT.



HOW
D'YOU
THINK IT
GOT TO BE
SUCH A
FARCE?



WHY IS IT THAT IN
THIS WORLD THE
PEOPLE WITH THE
BEST ABILITY TO
OPPOSE THE TITANS
GET THE PRIVILEGE
OF STAYING FAR
AWAY FROM
THEM?



SHF



GOOD
QUESTION!

!



MM
...



UNH
...

PERHAPS
IT'S HUMAN
NATURE...?

WHUMP



FWISH

WHOA!

EVEN AS
A KID, I KNEW
IT WAS CRAP...
BUT DAD MADE
ME LEARN THESE
POINTLESS
MOVES, AND I
WAS TOO YOUNG
TO DEFY
HIM...

CARRIED
AWAY WITH
IDEALS THAT
HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH
REALITY...

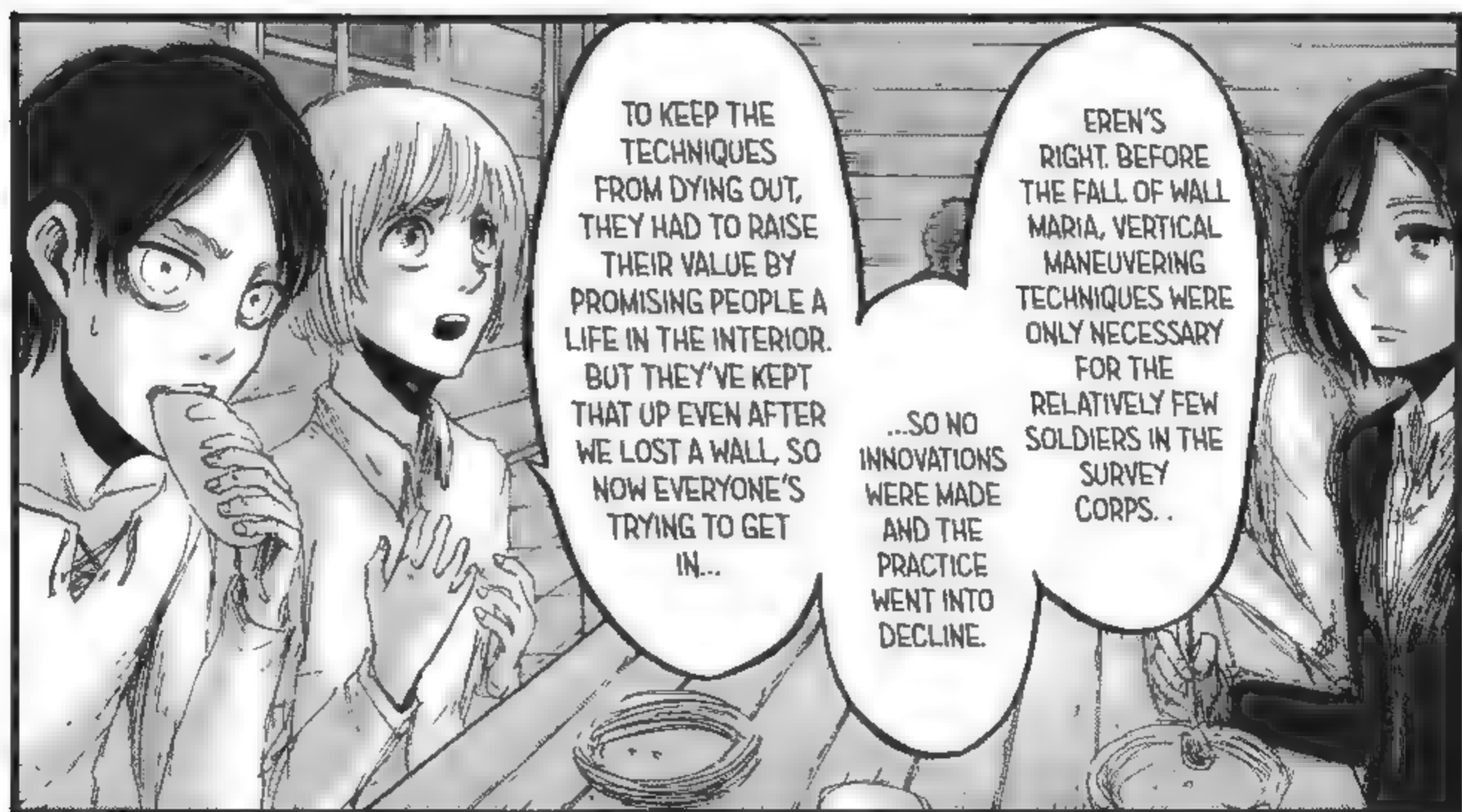
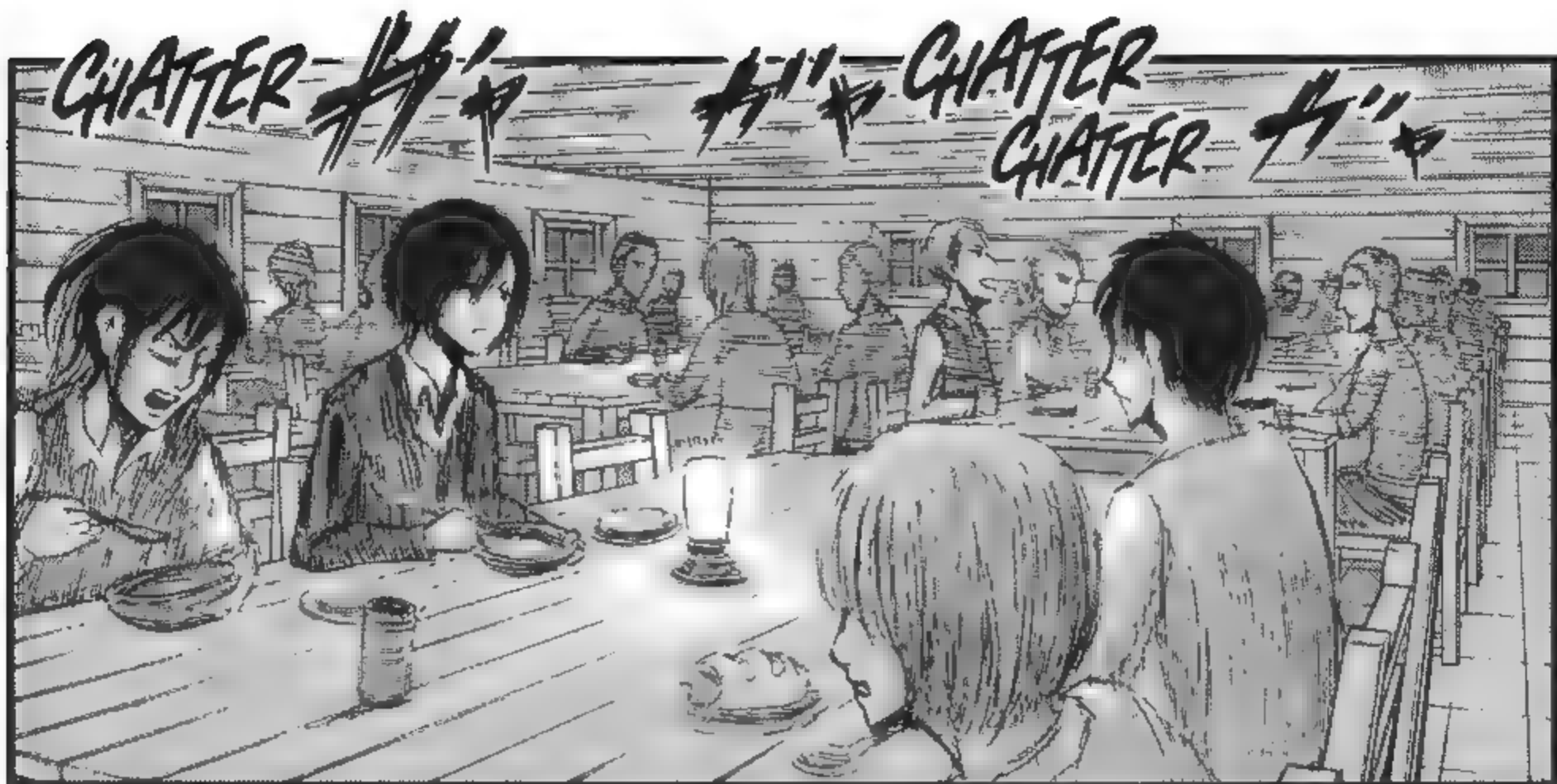
MY
FATHER
WAS
LIKE
YOU
TWO...

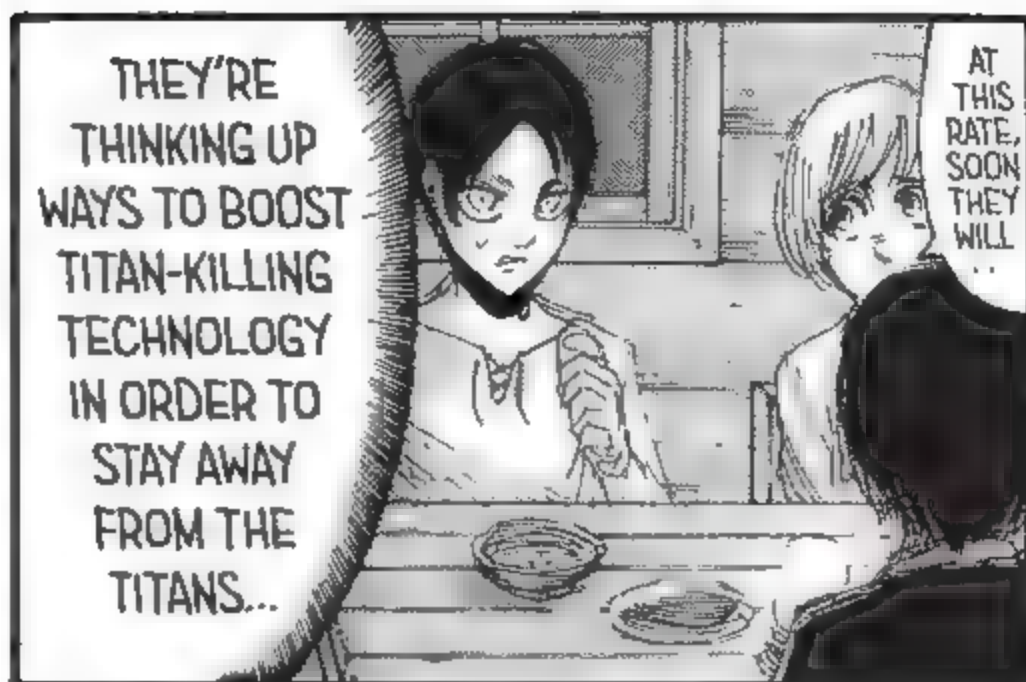
...IN THIS
PATHETIC
WORLD!

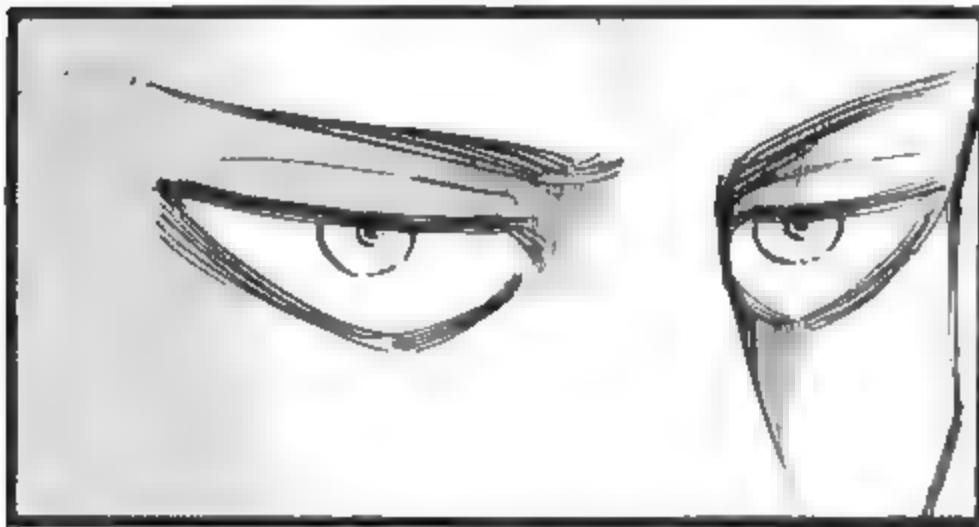
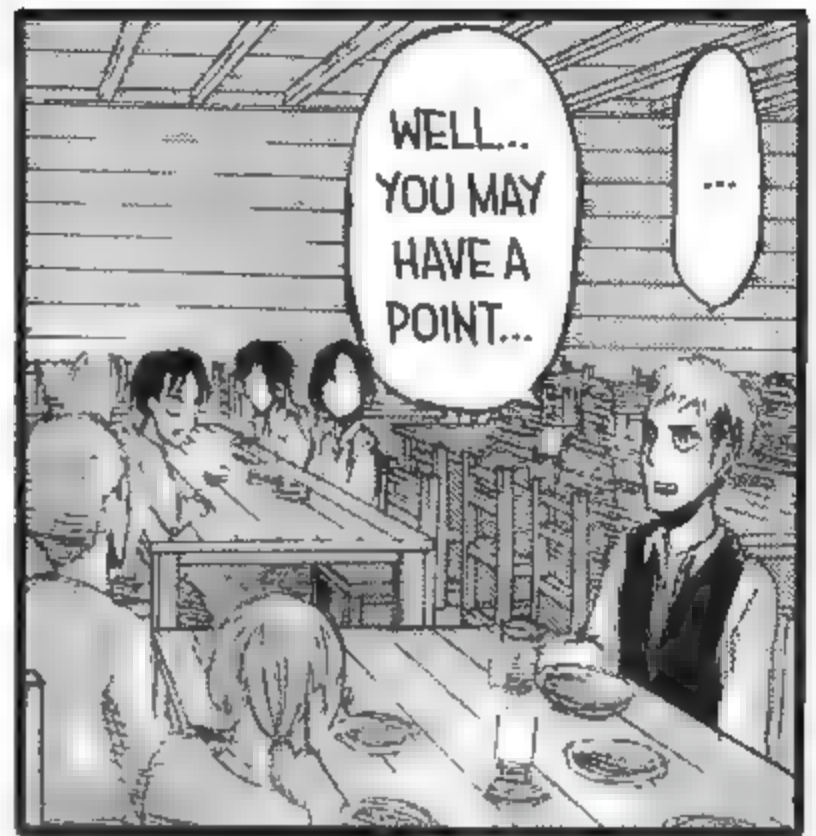
...WHO
ENJOYS
PLAYING
SOLDIER...

I REFUSE
TO BE ONE
OF THOSE
MORONS...

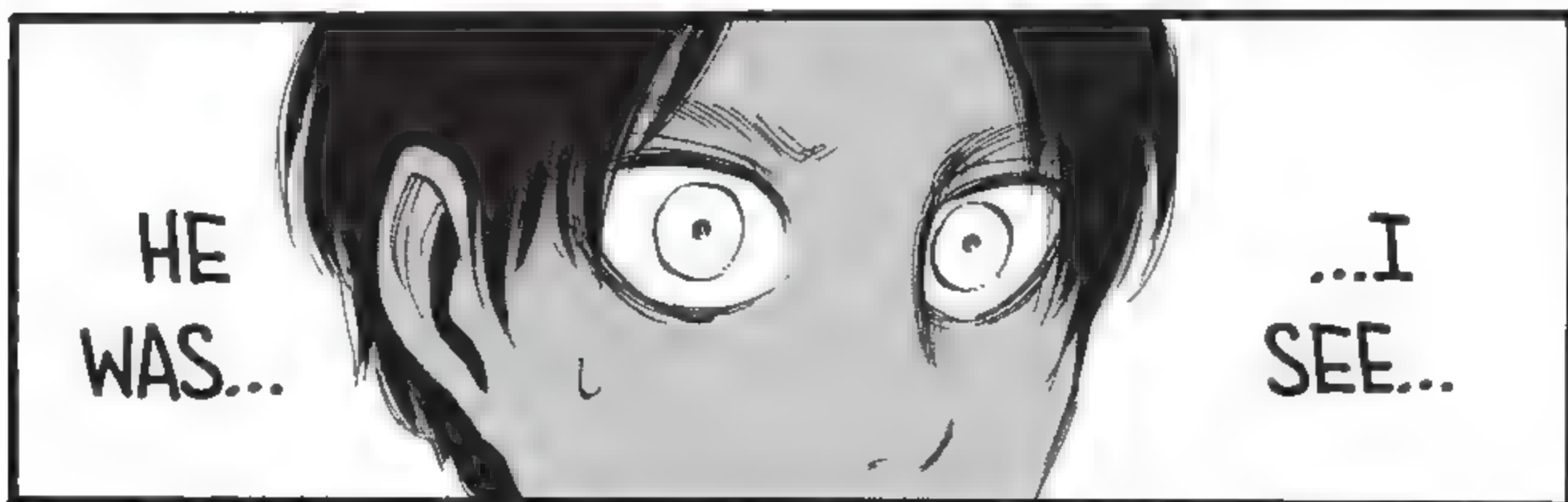
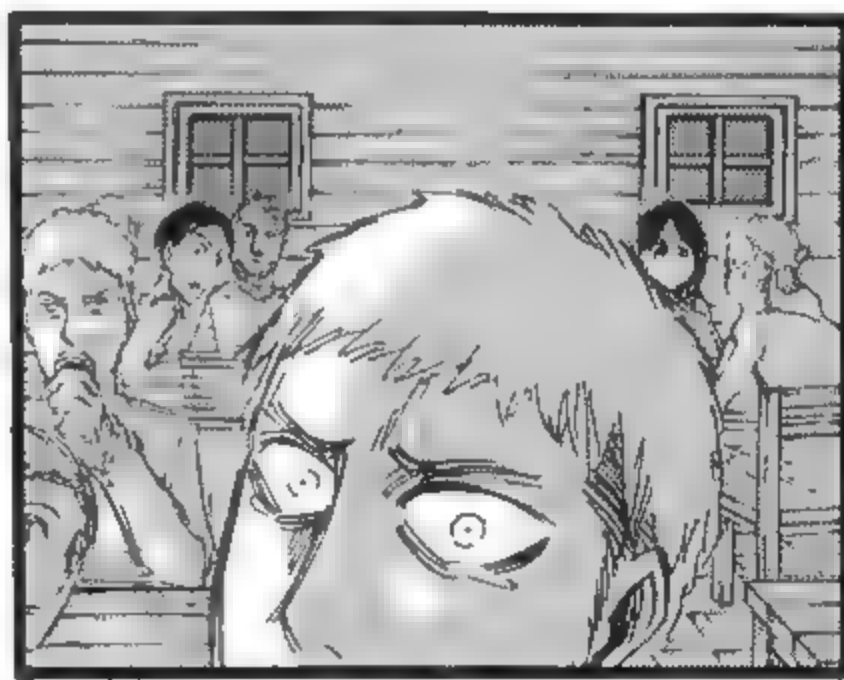
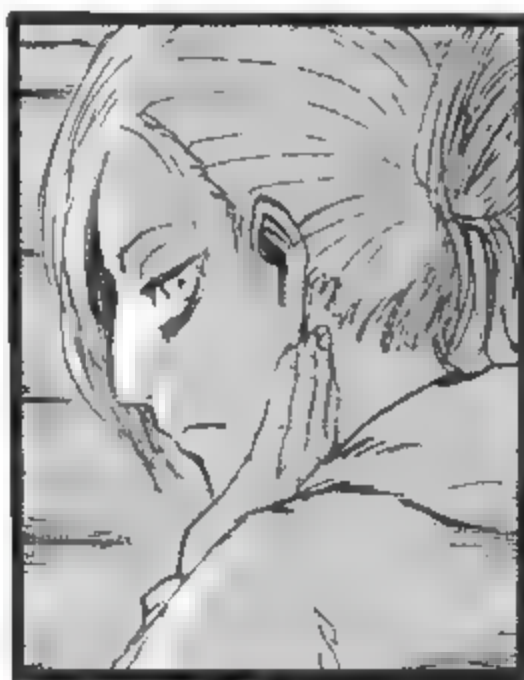
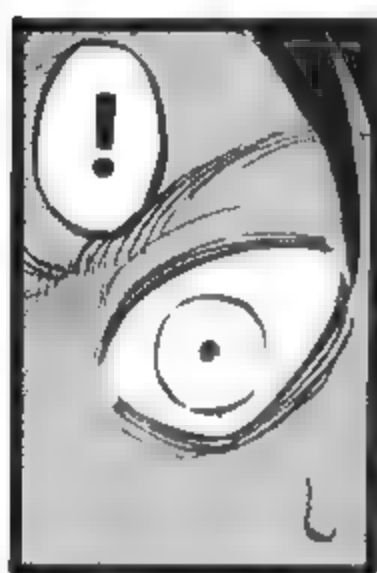
SEEMS TO
ME YOU'RE
JUST NOT
MEANT TO
BE A
SOLDIER...

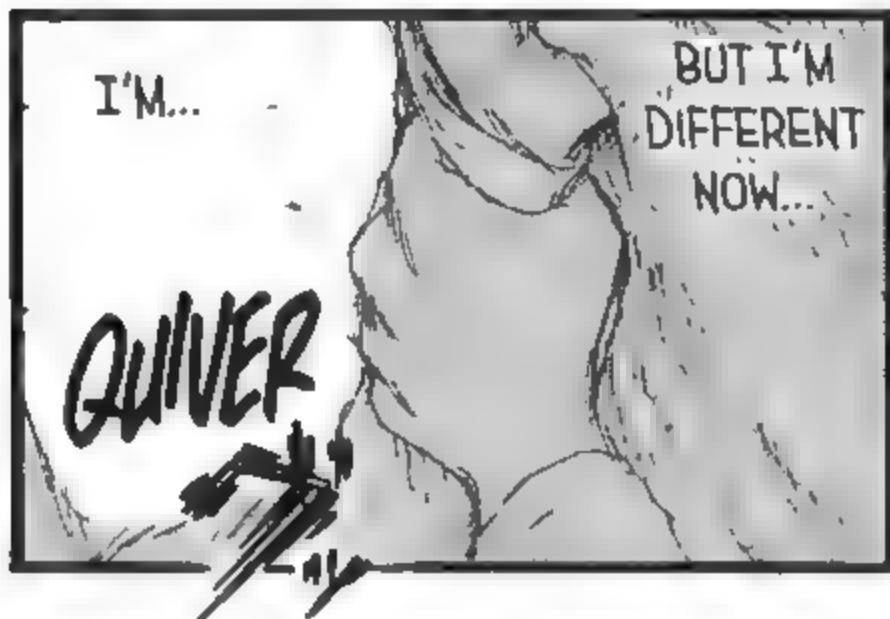




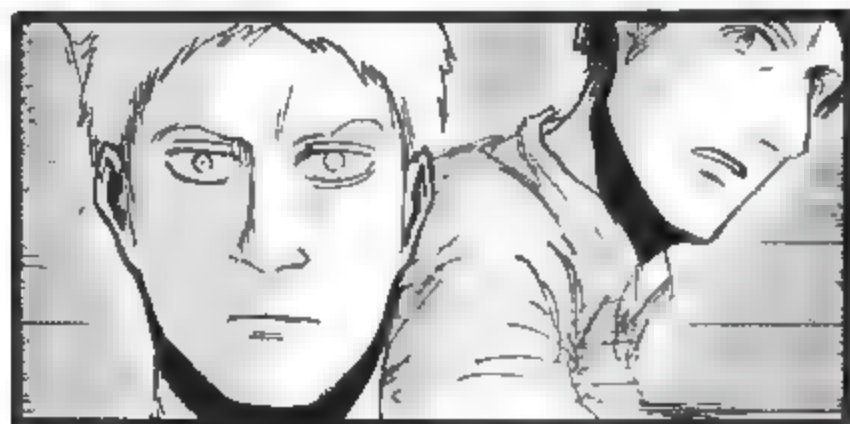
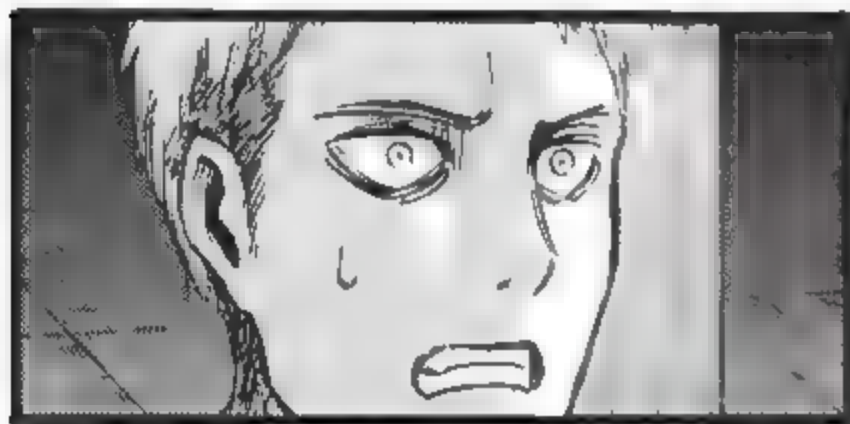
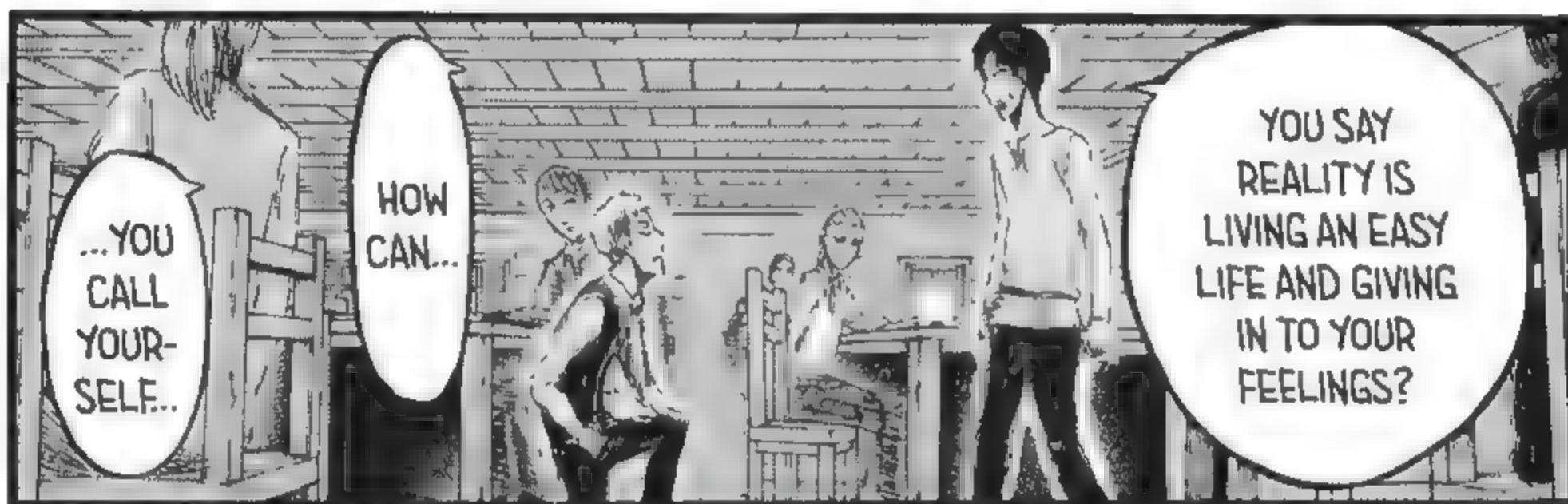


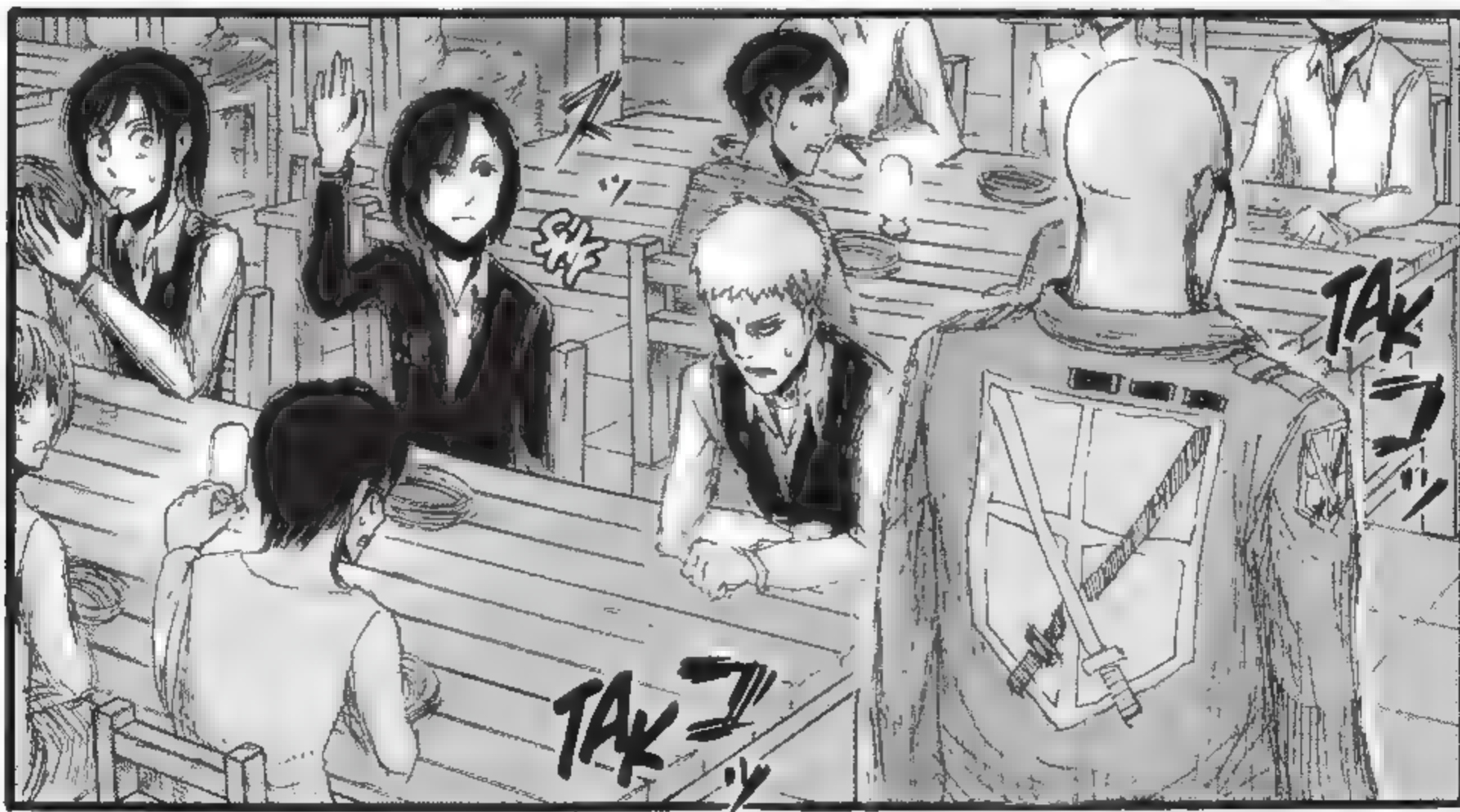


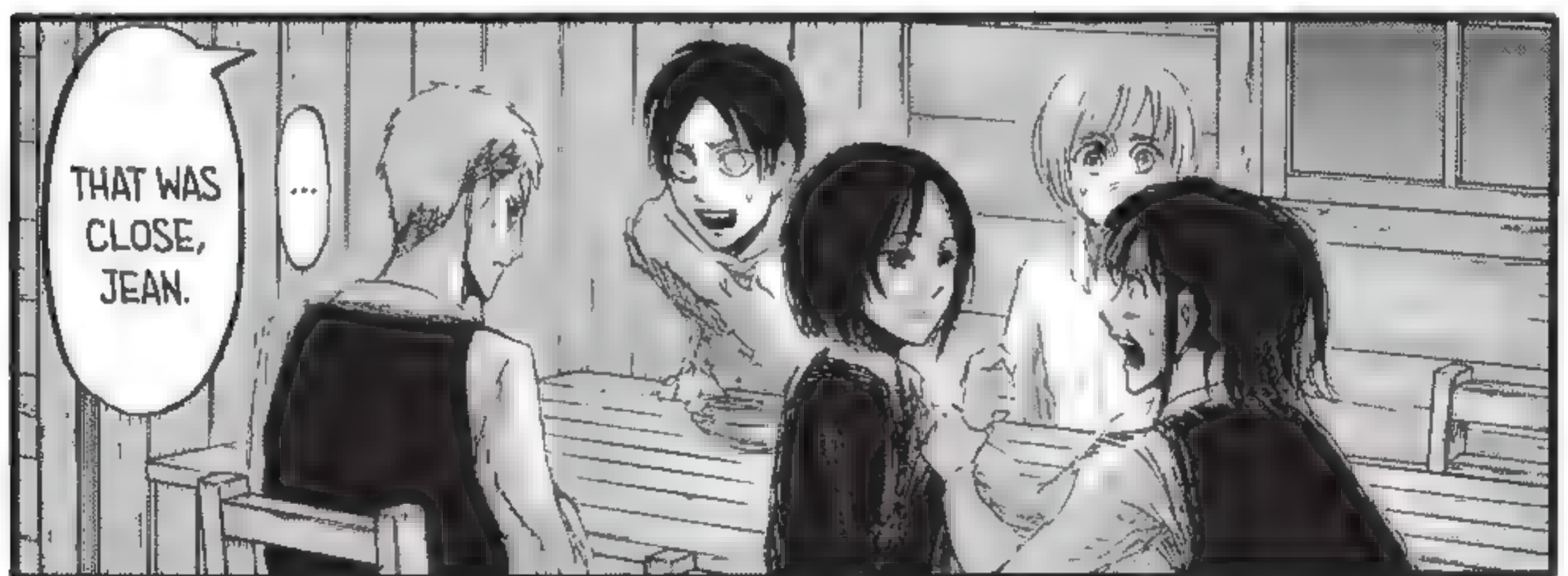


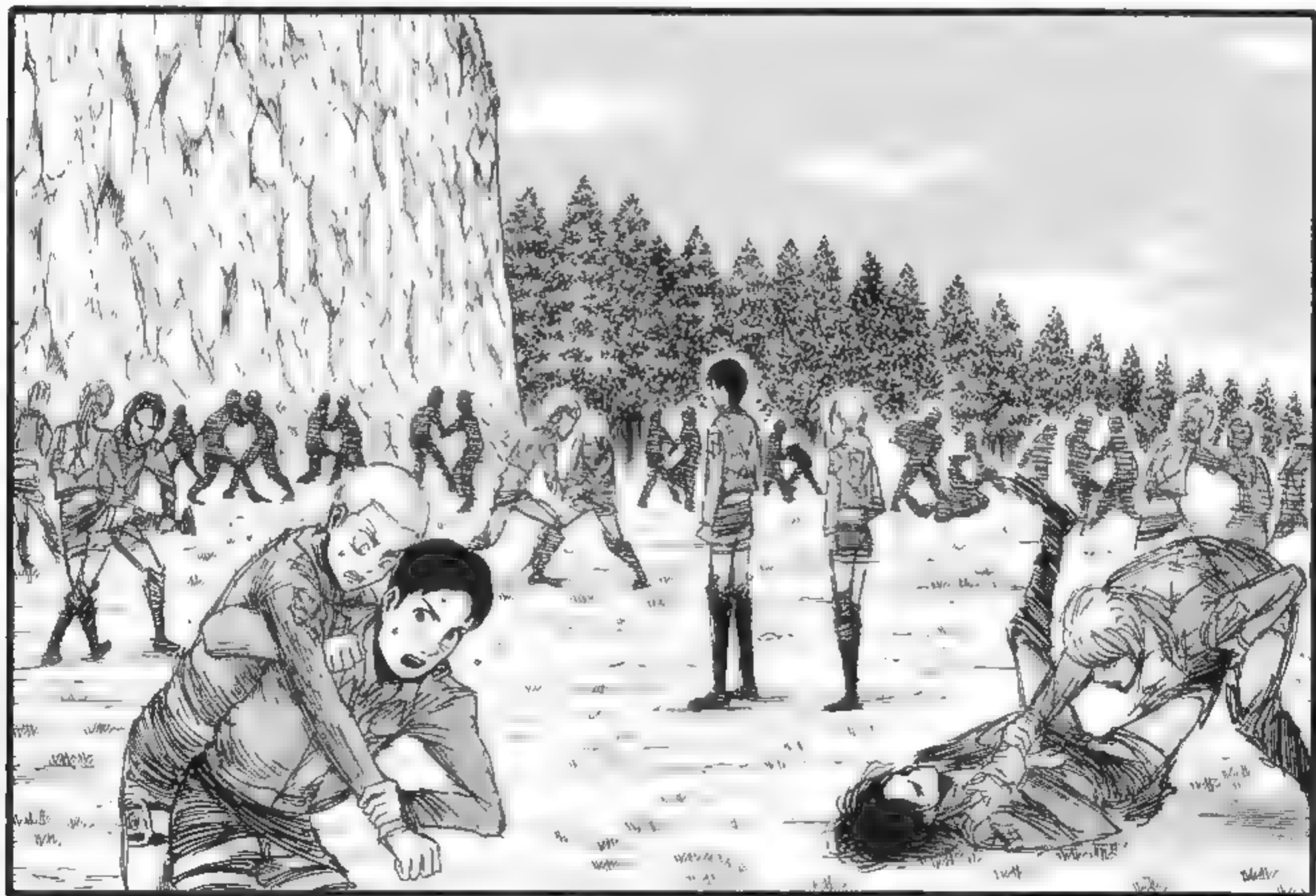
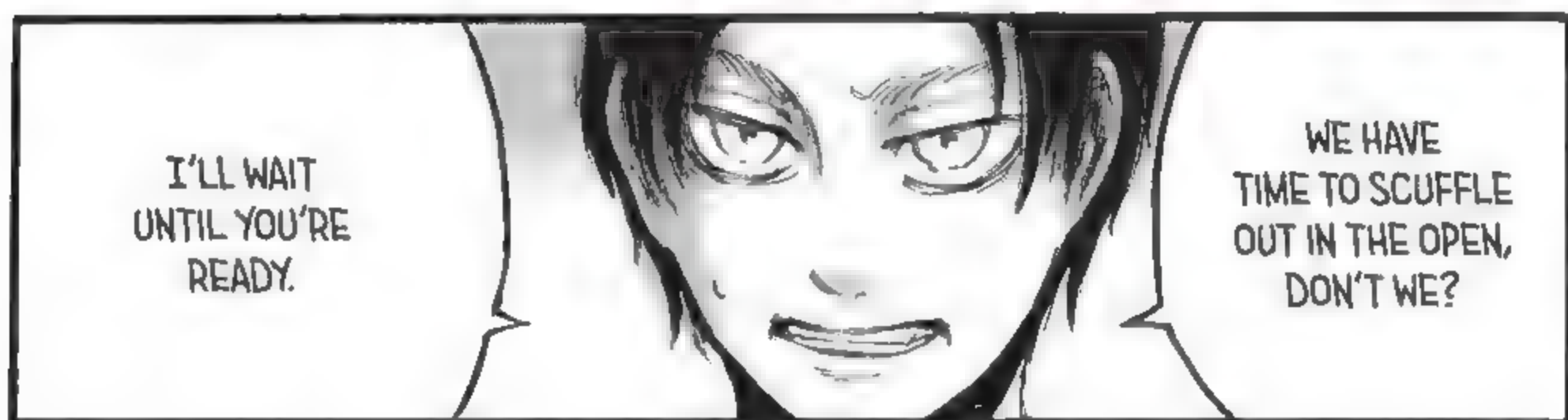


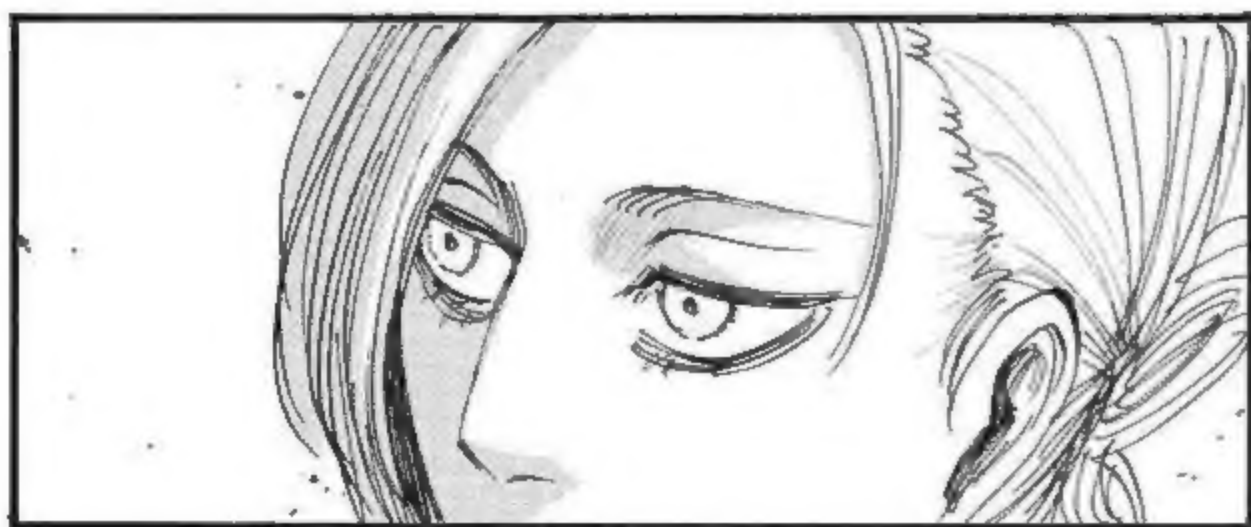
















Current Publicly Available Information

9. Ultrahard Steel

THIS STEEL IS ONLY PRODUCED AT FACTORY TOWNS. IT COMBINES TOUGHNESS AND FLEXIBILITY TO SLICE THROUGH TITAN FLESH, AND IT'S CURRENTLY THE ONLY MATERIAL CAPABLE OF THAT. AS SUCH, THE SINGLE-EDGED SWORD, A SPECIALLY CREASED FORGED BLADE, IS KNOWN FAR AND WIDE AS AN ANTI-TITAN WEAPON. BLAST FURNACES ARE ESSENTIAL TO REFINE "ULTRAHARD STEEL," WHICH IS WHY IT CAN ONLY BE PRODUCED IN FACTORY TOWNS. THE FORGING PROCESS REQUIRES VERY SMALL QUANTITIES OF SEVERAL RARE METALS, BUT EXACTLY WHICH ONES AND IN WHAT RATIOS HAVE BECOME SECRETS KNOWN ONLY TO RESIDENTS OF THOSE TOWNS.

(WITH THANKS TO UKYŌ KODACHI
AND KIYOMUNE MIWA)

